AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims, if entered, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present Application.

1.   (Currently Amended) A **computer-implemented** method ~~in a computing system~~ for managing inventory, the method comprising:

   synchronizing inventory balance information between a source computerized
      inventory management system and a target computerized inventory
      management system, wherein
      the source computerized inventory management system and the target
         computerized inventory management system are among a plurality of
         computerized inventory management systems,
      the synchronizing is bi-directional, and
      the synchronizing comprises
         extracting inventory balance information in a source format that is
            associated with [[a]] **the** source computerized inventory
            management system, [[;]]
         converting the inventory balance information in the source format into
            inventory balance information ~~that is~~ in an intermediate
            format[[;]] , and
         converting the inventory balance information in the intermediate format
            into inventory balance information in a target format that
            corresponds to [[a]] **the** target computerized inventory
            management system.

2.   (Currently Amended) The **computer-implemented** method of Claim 1, further comprising:

   using the inventory balance information in the target format to update an existing
      inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory management
      system.

3.   (Currently Amended) The **computer-implemented** method of Claim 1, further comprising:

extracting inventory balance information in a second source format that is associated

with a second source computerized inventory management system that is

distinct from the first source computerized inventory management system,

wherein

the second source computerized inventory management system is one of

the plurality of computerized inventory management systems;

converting the inventory balance information in the second source format into

inventory balance information that is in the intermediate format;

converting the inventory balance information in the intermediate format into

inventory balance information in the target format; and

using the inventory balance information in the target format to update an existing

inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory management

system.

4.   (Currently Amended) The **computer-implemented** method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~second~~ intermediate format comprises a list of inventory balances class with a hierarchy of data elements.

5.   (Currently Amended) The **computer-implemented** method of Claim 4, wherein the hierarchy of data elements includes a plurality of inventory balance elements comprising:

a list of inventory balances element;

an inventory balance related inventory location element;

a list of related inventory balances for defining a plurality of related inventory

balances; and

a custom data element for defining customized attributes for the inventory.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The **computer-implemented** method of Claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance elements comprises a related inventory location element for defining related inventory location identifier.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The **computer-implemented** method of Claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance elements comprises a list of inventory balance data element for defining a plurality of inventory balance data elements.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The **computer-implemented** method of Claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance elements comprises an inventory balance custom data.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The **computer-implemented** method of Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance data elements comprises a related product element for defining a product identifier.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The **computer-implemented** method of Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance data element comprises a list of balance data element for defining a plurality of balance data elements.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The **computer-implemented** method of Claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of balance data elements comprises:
> a bucket code element;
> a quantity of product element;
> a product unit of measure code element; and
> a balance data custom data element.

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12. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for managing inventory, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform:

<u>synchronizing inventory balance information between a source computerized inventory management system and a target computerized inventory management system, wherein</u>

<u>the source computerized inventory management system and the target computerized inventory management system are among a plurality of computerized inventory management systems,</u>

<u>the synchronizing is bi-directional, and</u>

<u>the synchronizing comprises</u>

extracting inventory balance information in a source format that is associated with [[a]] <u>the</u> source computerized inventory management system, [[;]]

converting the inventory balance information in the source format into inventory balance information ~~that is~~ in an intermediate format[[;]] , and

converting the inventory balance information in the intermediate format into inventory balance information in [[a]] <u>the</u> target format that corresponds to a target computerized inventory management system.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 12, further comprising:

using the inventory balance information in the target format to update an existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory management system.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 12, further comprising:

    extracting inventory balance information in a second source format that is associated

        with a second source computerized inventory management system that is

        distinct from the first source computerized inventory management system<u>,</u>

        <u>wherein</u>

            <u>the second source computerized inventory management system is one of</u>

                <u>the plurality of computerized inventory management systems</u>;

    converting the inventory balance information in the second source format into

        inventory balance information that is in the intermediate format;

    converting the inventory balance information in the intermediate format into

        inventory balance information in the target format; and

    using the inventory balance information in the target format to update an existing

        inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory management

        system.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 12, wherein the ~~second~~ intermediate format comprises a list of inventory balances class with a hierarchy of data elements.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 15, wherein the hierarchy of data elements comprises a plurality of inventory balance elements comprising:

    a list of inventory balances element;

    an inventory balance related inventory location element;

    a list of related inventory balances for defining a plurality of related inventory

        balances; and

    a custom data element for defining customized attributes for the inventory.

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17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance elements comprises a related inventory location element for defining related inventory location identifier.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance elements comprises a list of inventory balance data element for defining a plurality of inventory balance data elements.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance elements ~~includes~~ comprises an inventory balance custom data.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 18, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance data elements comprises a related product element for defining a product identifier.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 18, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance data elements comprises a list of balance data element for defining a plurality of balance data.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 21, wherein each of the plurality of balance data elements comprises:
- a bucket code element;
- a quantity of product element;
- a product unit of measure code element; and
- a balance data custom data element.

25 - 32. (Canceled).

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